

The Weston Family Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow Program

W. Garfield Weston Foundation

This foundation was established in the 1950's by Willard Garfield Weston and his wife Reta. The business side of this foundation includes but is not limited to: the original banking company, Loblaw Companies Limited, other food retail providers, and processing and distribution companies. The W. Garfield Weston Foundation has been supporting outdoor and experiential education programs for children for generations; demonstrating their interest through grant-giving charitable donations. Learn more about the W. Garfield Weston Foundation at: www.westonfoundation.org.



The Weston Family Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow Program

The Weston Family Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow Program (the WFELTP) is funded solely by the W. Garfield Weston Foundation. The Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) was the original and sole provider of the Weston Family Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow program from until 2011. In 2012, due to TRCA's success at delivering this program, the Foundation has expanded its Weston Family Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow Program funding out to additional outdoor education centres across Ontario.



Components of the Weston Family Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow Program

The WFELTP is a three phase program that promises an exciting, engaging, hands-on and experiential education program for **Grade 6 students**. This program is comprised of three major pillars: **environmental leadership, community action and environmental literacy**. This entire multi-phase program is provided to Grade 6 students for **\$25 per student** (including tax), thanks to the generous support of the W. Garfield Weston Foundation.

Phase I: Classroom Pre-Visit

Each participating class receives a Teacher-Classroom Action Kit comprised of resources and learning tools to support the development of environmental leadership and needed learning prior to the excursion. A virtual visit by a trained educator will introduce students to natural science concepts and environmental issues that will be explored in more detail throughout the duration of the program. This phase will help prepare students for their trip. Teachers will receive a camera to document the experience. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Conservation Education staff will provide all information required to prepare and excite your Grade 6's for their excursion to the Camp Sylvan Conservation Program.

Phase II: 2.5 Day Excursion to the Camp Sylvan Conservation Program

This field trip to one of Ontario's leading environmental residential programs includes all programming, accommodation, and meals.

Phase III: Classroom Post-Visit:

Each participating class will receive a follow up visit by a Conservation Education staff from the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority to support the learning and development that has occurred with the class; to ensure the success of all classroom objectives and potential action projects.

Schoolyard Biodiversity Grant

Funding up to \$350 for materials and supplies can be awarded to each participating classroom to put towards the increase in schoolyard biodiversity such as: outdoor shade classrooms, butterfly gardens, wildflower gardens, etc. To be eligible classes develop and submit plans and a budget for projects.

Reimbursement of Transportation Costs: Each school will receive up to \$500 per visit to subsidize the cost of transportation to the Camp Sylvan Conservation Program.

PLUS! Other support materials, information and opportunities to connect will be offered to Weston Family Teachers. The Camp Sylvan Conservation Program staff will assist will guiding teachers through all phases of the WFELTP.

Criteria for Eligible Schools

The WFELTP is currently targeting students within 'high priority' schools which reside in urban communities.

High Priority School Selection Criteria:

- Schools within urban communities
- Schools with your board whose communities do not normally have the resources to provide extended overnight field trips to their students.

Other Selection Criteria:

- The WFELTP must be supplementary to and not in replacement of a board mandated residential outdoor education experience.
- Teacher(s) of Grade 6 class must be willing and able to participate within a leadership role in their classes, schools, and community. *Materials to support this would be provided.*
- Only 1 class size at a time, or 35 students maximum.

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority's Camp Sylvan Conservation Program

The Camp Sylvan Conservation Program, run by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) is one of five program facilitators to benefit from this expansion, due to our commitment to delivering quality educational programming of sustainability, stewardship and natural sciences. The ABCA has been presented with the target of reaching 'high priority' schools in London, Sarnia, Chatham, Windsor, and St. Catharines from May 2012 to June 2015.

Since 1964, the Camp Sylvan Conservation residential program has been the cornerstone of the ABCA conservation education programming - the only outdoor residential program operated by a conservation authority in southwestern Ontario.

Students attending the ABCA's Camp Sylvan Conservation Program through the Weston Foundation Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow Program will reside at Camp Sylvan for 2 ½ days. The students will sleep outdoors in covered chuck wagons - being immersed in the natural environment 24 hours a day – learning and sleeping outside. This program will take place during the months of May, June, September and October.

Camp Sylvan

Camp Sylvan is located at: 32098 Scout Road, between Parkhill and Thedford, Ontario.

